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A RAMBLE IN CIGAR LAND.

By Wm. A. Stickney.

sons assumed for the deterioration 1472 crop, are that the soil must have run out, present day cigar.

You are wrong, Mr. Smoker greatly by age, and by adding to this man. Cigars have kept in full stock from each succeeding year's deteriorated, and that they are lack tained. ing in quality is purely an imaginatobacco has greatly improved, new imported. he used to get."

and repeated so often it has become cigar industry-duties increased by a

a belief. Indeed, I can believe that the Indian, when he handed Columbus the first roll of the weed any white man had ever seen, remarked apologet-Every day you hear smokers re-ically that he had his father's (Old mark, "Cigars are not so good as when Killikinick) word that the crop of that we first began smoking," and the rea- year (1492) was not qu... up to the

Owing to climatic conditions, there or is over fertilized, or not fermized is quite a variation in the amount enough; or the Spanish-American war and quality of tobacco grown each ruined all the good tobacco planta- year, but nearly all manufacturers, by tions, and many other reasons are carefully watching the crop producgiven for the lack of quality of the tion, obtain and carry a two or thres year's supply of leaf which improves pace with other lines of manu- crop the standard of quality, or "infacture, have improved rather than dividuality" of the cigar, can be main-

In grandfather's day comparatively tion of your own. The cultivation of few of the fine grades of cigars were The imports then were and better methods of curing and principally Plantations (Pigtails), rollhandling the leaf have developed, san- ed by the farm hands between crop itary conditions of factories are more seasons, naturally of hap-hazard workcarefully looked after, closer atten- manship and indifferently selected tion is paid to blending and combin- stock, and Principes and Yaras, also ing tobaccos, workmanship, selecting crudely made, and only a trifle betand shading of the colors, packing and ter in selection of material. These proper boxing; while every shape and cigars are still to be obtained, but size to suit the whim of every cranky Uncle Sam's duty quite keeps them smoker is considered, and from five out of the market. Manilas were popto eight shadings of each size given ular prior to the Civil War,, but the him to select from, and yet he kicks duty and premium on gold put a check like a government mule for "the kind to the importation of all foreign-made cigars and gave American cigars from My father told me that ...s father our home grown tobaccos an opportold him this same story. Like the tunity to show their merits. At that mother's pie story, it has been told period really began the "domestic"